Mercantile Summary.

The Ontario Government is making an investigation into the possibilities of the peat industry in that province. At Beaverton works are already in operation for making briquettes of that material and large deposits occur south of James' Bay and in the midland counties.

On the 25th ult., some 200 machinists in the Canadian Locomotive Works went on strike, owing to the dismissal of an employee for refusing to make up lost time. We understand, however, that they went back to work after a day or two, pending an adjustment of the difficulty.

The Winnipeg Street Railway Company and the Ogilvie Milling Company have, a despatch from Winnipeg says, combined their interests in the matter of electric power for the operation of their respective machinery, and will bring the same from a point on the Winnipeg river.

The following is a record of patents recently granted to Canadian inventors in Canada and the United States: A. W. Ewers, trousers' shapers; C. W. Conner, riveting machine. United States Patents —Philip J. Darlington, electric generator motor; Cyrus S. Dean, signal for railways; Patrice Desnoyers, shears or scissors; Thomas A. Wooley, machine for shocking grain.

A meeting of the creditors of the Geo. McPherson Shoe Company was held in this city last week, when it was decided to wind up the estate. The company's statement showed direct liabilities of about $7,000, with assets nominally the same. Messrs. J. D. McMurrich and W. B. Markle were appointed inspectors. It will be remembered that this company was hunting for bonuses in Orangeville and St. Thomas.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association will meet in Montreal, in annual session, November 5th-6th, when about 400 members are expected to be in attendance. The banquet will take place on the evening of the latter date, and among the gentlemen who have accepted invitations to be present and to speak are: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. J. I. Tarte, Hon. W. S. Fielding, Hon. W. Paterson and Hon. W. Mulock

Section 521, of the criminal code, provides that all electric light, gas, or power companies must post in a prominent place a notice that they are subject to a fine of $1,000 if they break their contracts with the city. If they neglect to post this notice they are subject to a penalty of $20 per day. A complaint laid recently by Mr. F. L. Snow, of Montreal, alleged that the Montreal Gas Company had not complied with the law, and had neglected to post up this notice. The case was heard on the 13th of September, before Judge Desnoyers, and the company was fined $1 and costs, the judge explaining the lightness of his sentence by the fact that this provision of the law had been up to that time practically unknown.